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# 2005 Session Highlights



Rep. Reske works on legislation  
on the House floor.



Rep. Reske addresses the House  
of Representatives.



Rep. Reske honors the Lapel Basketball Team for winning  
the IHSAA State Basketball Tournament.

## Representative Scott E. Reske

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Representatives

# State Representative **Scott E. Reske**



# Session Report

- ✓ Economic Development Initiatives
- ✓ The New State Budget and Education
- ✓ Legislation Impacting Meth





# INDIANA'S NEW BUDGET

**School Funding Cuts and  
Increased Property Taxes**



## Reske Opposes 2005 Budget

The new state budget increases property taxes and, at the same time, cuts funding for local schools. After years of bipartisan efforts to reform education and reduce property taxes, the Republican party has approved a budget that will cut state funding for many schools and raise property taxes by nearly \$850 million.

I voted "NO" because of the negative impact it will have on education, children and homeowners who pay property taxes. I believe there will be many victims of the new state budget.

More than 140 school corporations will receive less money. Those schools will be forced into eliminating teachers, cutting programs and increasing class sizes. Any funding shortfalls for public schools will come primarily from raising local property taxes.

This budget also forces a direct increase in your property taxes for homes. The state pays approximately one-third of homeowners' property taxes through the property tax replacement credit (PTRC). The PTRC was capped in this budget and therefore homeowners will be forced to make up the difference.



Unfortunately, this eliminates the promise of just three years ago to provide more state support to combat rising property taxes in light of the historic and controversial statewide reassessment.

It is a shame that the legacy of this session will be passage of a state budget that turns its back on Indiana's schoolchildren and property taxpayers. For anyone who cares about education and local taxpayers, it is simply indefensible.

## New Laws Address Production of Meth



The Indiana General Assembly controlled the sale of cold and allergy medicines and other products that contain ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, two ingredients used to make meth.

When this law takes effect on July 1, most stores will be required to keep the drugs in a locked case or behind a counter. In addition, customers will be limited to 3 grams—about 100 tablets—of the medicines per week. To make a purchase, they will have to show a state or federal ID and sign a logbook.

## Economic Development

The duty of the General Assembly is to provide a climate in which to create, maintain and increase **good-paying jobs** in growth areas of our economy. This year's legislature made economic development a priority.

In fact, the very first bill passed into law this session was one that Representative Reske co-sponsored which created a new public-private group—the Indiana Economic Development Corporation—to serve as the leader for development efforts across our state. We were able to make changes to this corporation that will ensure it is accountable to the public.

Other measures designed to help spur economic growth include **increasing the research and development tax credit**, phasing out the sales tax on research and development equipment, and extending the life and use of EDGE tax credits that help businesses retain and create jobs.

We also passed a measure that will speed the process of obtaining permits so developers can begin construction on new industrial sites. **Small business owners will receive additional tax breaks** under new legislation that will also reduce the potential that they will be harmed by government regulation.

This legislation is patterned after an Oklahoma law that has helped result in an 80 percent reduction in meth labs found in that state.

Why is meth so dangerous? Medical experts say the drug, which can be made inexpensively using chemicals that are easy to purchase, produces a high that lasts longer than cocaine and causes delusions and psychotic behavior.

Since many of the ingredients are highly dangerous, producing meth raises the risk of explosions and contamination.

## Protecting Seniors and Crime Victims

Victims will be automatically notified when offenders are released from prison or have their status changed. Offenders on home detention will be ordered to wear monitoring devices that constantly track their location.



## Reorganizing Government

Indiana now has a state Department of Agriculture and Office of Rural Affairs, as well as a Department of Homeland Security. House Democrats were able to prevent the governor from proceeding with a plan to reduce citizen participation in government by getting rid of hundreds of state boards and commissions.

## School Pledge

Legislation was passed this session which will require a daily opportunity for students to voluntarily say the Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence in each public school classroom. The bill also states that each classroom must have a United States flag on display.



## Alternate Fuels

Whenever possible, state government vehicles will be required to run on agriculture-based fuels, such as biodiesel, ethanol or gasohol.